

LSE Air Quality Position Statement

Introduction

LSE is committed to the health and wellbeing of our community, as well as environmental sustainability, through the School's Strategy and Ethics Code. Located in the heart of London, we recognise that LSE has a duty to enhance our impact on local air quality. We also strive to protect our students, staff and visitors from air pollution as far as possible, and whilst recognising that LSE alone has only limited influence on the overall air quality of the city, we collaborate with a range of partners to contribute to the collective improvement of the capital's air quality.

This Position Statement outlines LSE's approach to these challenges.

For further information, please see the [LSE Sustainability Policy](#), [Sustainable Travel Plan](#), [Sustainable Procurement Policy](#), and [Wellbeing Policy](#).

1. Minimising our own emissions

Commuting

97% of LSE students and staff commute by foot, bike or public transport. We will continue to make it easy and desirable for them to do so, by:

- Make cycling easy by providing high-quality cycle parking, along with showers and lockers, and providing bike maintenance stations and scheduled Dr Bike events.
- Help people to start cycling by supporting the Cycle to Work Scheme and providing cycle confidence training sessions.
- Provide season ticket loans to staff.

Business travel

LSE promotes lower-emissions business travel options, by encouraging staff to avoid domestic flights,

and by providing facilities and technology to enable high-quality remote meetings, removing the need for some travel.

Buildings

We minimise our energy consumption, and ensure the energy we do use is sourced as cleanly as possible: our electricity is either purchased on green tariffs, or generated onsite through low/zero carbon technologies, and our gas boilers are modern low-emission models.

We also minimise dust and fumes coming from LSE construction and demolition sites by working closely with our contractors.

2. Minimising emissions within our supply chain

We minimise freight emissions by engaging with suppliers to streamline their goods deliveries to LSE. Contractors travelling to carry out work at LSE are also encouraged via contract management processes to minimise trips and use low-emission transport wherever practical.

Our procurement guidelines ensure that sustainability is factored into major purchasing decisions, e.g. low-energy consuming equipment, local and seasonal food, and 'green' energy tariffs. This minimises our contribution to local, national and international air pollution.

3. Protecting our community from exposure to air pollution

LSE will act wherever feasible to protect people on our sites from local air pollution, including students, staff, visitors and the local community.

Buildings are fitted with appropriate levels of ventilation to ensure good circulation of air; any mechanical ventilation is fitted with appropriate filters for particulate matter.

We actively install and maintain high quality green spaces on our campus, halls and sportsground, incorporating them into new developments wherever possible, whilst encouraging departments to adopt plants in their offices where suitable.

'Volatile Organic Compounds' (VOCs) are released indoors by new furniture, paint and glue. We minimise these emissions with our Standard Design Brief, which sets rigorous standards for which products are bought for use in the LSE estate.

4. Engaging with students and staff

We empower students and staff to make informed decisions to minimise their own exposure to air pollution. Our website promotes the LondonAir air quality map published by King's College London's Environmental Research Group, which displays real-time information on air quality across Greater London, enabling people to plan their journeys.

We have published 'greener' routes to cycle and walk from halls to campus, in partnership with TfL. We also provide information on all the above initiatives (e.g. active travel options) in the LSE Facilities Guide and other communications channels.

5. Community partnerships and advocacy

LSE collaborates with local businesses, community groups and statutory bodies to collectively enhance London air quality. In particular, the School is a key member of the Northbank Business Improvement

District, taking a leading role in public realm and sustainability initiatives. LSE is a member of the Northbank's Low Emissions Neighbourhood steering group, advising on strategy for a £330k programme of GLA funded air quality enhancement initiatives.

LSE uses our voice to advocate for action to improve air quality. Our academic and public engagement work influences public policy and debate, whilst we engage with local government both as a local organisation and collectively as part of the education sector.

6. Monitoring emissions

In order to maintain an informed understanding of the ongoing state of local air quality, LSE will periodically review the LondonAir model of London air quality, created by the King's College London Environmental Research Group. Where appropriate, the School will supplement this by undertaking our own monitoring of indoor and outdoor air quality at key LSE sites.

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Review schedule

Review interval	Next review due by	Next review start
3-yearly	Nov 2021	May 2021

Version history

Version	Date	Approved by	Notes
1	20 November 2018	FERM (Finance, Estates, Residences Management sub-committee of SMC)	

Links

Reference	Link
LSE Sustainability Policy	https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/envPol.pdf
LSE Sustainable Travel Plan	https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/estates-division/sustainable-lse/Assets/Documents/LSE-Sustainability-Projects/LSE-Travel-Plan.pdf
LSE Sustainable Procurement Policy	https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/susPurPol.pdf
LSE Wellbeing Policy	https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/empWelPol.pdf

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